



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

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Third District

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January 31, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich
From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

**MOTION TO SUPPORT SB 116 (DUTTON) -- DELETION OF SAFE SURRENDER
LAW SUNSET PROVISION (ITEM NO. 60-B, AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 1, 2005)**

Item No. 60-B on the February 1, 2005 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Knabe to support SB 116 (Dutton) and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to send correspondence to the members of the Los Angeles County Delegation and Governor Schwarzenegger urging support for the early passage and enactment of this legislation. Under existing law, the Safe Surrender Law would sunset on January 1, 2006. As introduced on January 25, 2005, SB 116 would delete that sunset provision.

The Safe Surrender Law provides immunity from prosecution to a parent who surrenders custody of a child 72 hours old or younger to a hospital or other designated safe surrender site. In 2003, the County sponsored SB 139 (Brulte) to clarify and strengthen provisions of the Safe Surrender Law. SB 139 was signed into law by the Governor on July 31, 2003. In 2004, the County sponsored SB 1413 (Brulte and Scott) to provide immunity from liability to a person who assists in the safe surrender of an infant. The County also sought to delete or extend the sunset provision of the Safe Surrender Law. Because SB 1413, as signed into law on July 5, 2004, did not address the sunset provision, our Sacramento advocates have continued to pursue this goal and are currently discussing County-sponsorship of SB 116 with Senator Dutton's office.

SB 116 has not yet been assigned to a committee, and has no registered support or opposition.

The County's Safe Haven Task Force, Phase II, strongly supports the elimination of the Safe Surrender Law sunset provision in order to continue to provide for the safe surrender of infants as an alternative to abandonment. Support for SB 139 is consistent with County policy to support the Safe Surrender Law and to seek deletion or extension of the sunset provision.

DEJ:GK
MAL:MS:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Department of Children and Family Services
District Attorney
Fire